



NATIONAL
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STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 19, 2010

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

Above average temperatures and extremely dry weather was consistent across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Soybean leaves dropped due to the dry weather and appeared to be deteriorating quickly. Hay harvest and corn harvest continued. In some areas, corn harvest has been completed. Strawberry growers prepared for planting in the upcoming weeks. Vegetable growers harvested pumpkins, sweet corn, tomatoes, second crop summer squash, and winter squash. The dry weather was good for pumpkin growth under irrigation as fungus diseases were minimized. Pasture suffered tremendously and beef farmers continued to be concern about having adequate hay and forage for the winter.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 22, 2010	19	29	49	3
August 29, 2010	24	36	39	1
September 5, 2010	31	42	27	0
September 12, 2010	38	43	19	0
September 19, 2010	59	31	10	0

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	37	33	22	8	0
Livestock	3	12	38	39	8
Hay, Other	30	31	26	12	1
Hay, Alfalfa	15	24	32	25	4
Corn	36	26	29	8	1
Soybeans	20	32	42	5	1
Tobacco, Burley	4	12	19	65	0
Peanuts	33	38	20	9	0
Cotton	16	30	42	12	0
Apples, All	0	10	75	10	5
Grapes	1	1	20	60	18

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	95	87	96	95
Corn Mature	81	65	77	80
Corn Harvested for Grain	64	44	17	24
Corn Silage Harvested	91	84	70	77
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	36	17	22	25
Winter Wheat Seeded	9	5	6	4
Barley Seeded	17	7	10	14
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	55	50	74	61
Burley Tobacco Harvested	69	40	67	63
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Harvested	87	73	94	55
Cotton Bolls Opening	60	40	46	75
Cotton Harvested	4	1	N/A	N/A
Fall Apples Harvested	31	30	34	44
Winter Apples Harvested	26	20	N/A	8
Oats for Grain Seeded	20	6	N/A	N/A

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep 18	Mar. 1 to Sep 18 Normal	Last Week	Since Sept 1	Sept 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	86	56	90	50	71	3	3727	3353	0.00	0.04	-1.96	32.31	0.32
Norfolk	83	65	93	62	74	1	4315	3710	0.26	0.47	-2.00	33.30	-1.38
Richmond	87	61	94	56	74	3	4251	3620	0.18	0.23	-2.07	22.95	-9.37
Roanoke	86	58	92	52	72	3	3934	NA	0.19	0.52	-1.84	29.87	-1.90
Wash/Dulles	82	56	87	51	69	1	3843	NA	0.55	0.56	-1.77	27.06	-3.34

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)

We are experiencing seasonable temperatures and very little rain.

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

We are in a D3 Drought at this time for Frederick. Pasture is practically non-existent. Farmers are feeding and have been feeding since July. Some started in June. We had a little shower yesterday, but not enough to change conditions.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Dry, very dry. No rain for another week. Temperatures are above average for this time of year. Annual rainfall is well below average for the year. Corn harvest for grain is earlier than normal. Silage corn was finished earlier than normal. Soybean leaves are dropping due to the dry weather more than normal maturity. Hay and pastures are of poor quality.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

The dry, windy conditions continue to take their toll on crops. Soybeans are dropping leaves rapidly. Corn is drying down quickly. Dark and burley tobacco farmers are discussing the need for moisture and warmer weather to aid curing. Hay harvest continues. Farmers are receiving their ordered small grain seed, but will wait for rain before planting. Land is hard and difficult to work.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Corn producers are finishing harvest. Yields ranged anywhere from 20 to just under 100 bu./acre on dry land. Irrigated corn yielded well, many fields approaching 200 bu./acre and more. Small fruit producers will be planting strawberries this week. Vegetable farmers are harvesting the last of the sweet corn, tomatoes, and second crop summer squash and green beans. Winter squash and pumpkin harvest is in full gear. Dry conditions favored good pumpkin growth under irrigation as fungus diseases were minimized. Soybean crop is deteriorating badly due to very dry conditions. Bean pods have not filled well.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Very dry, no rain in this week's forecast. Temperatures were above average and will be above average this week. Corn has suffered the most. Leaves are falling from soybeans due to the dry and hot conditions, not from maturity. Hay is of poor quality.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Some hay being cut. Others are looking for large round bales for winter feeding.

ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)

Dry. Sale of livestock has increased. A lot of calls from farmers looking for hay. Producers have started shelling corn this week.

EASTERN

KING GEORGE (John Howe)

Dry conditions continue. Harvest reports indicate below normal yields for corn. Late hay was made during the week, lower than normal yields there too. Beef farmers are concerned about having adequate hay and forage resources for this winter.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

More dry and warm weather continued to deplete soil moisture. Corn harvest is almost complete with extremely poor yields. Due to a lack of moisture, soybean fields are turning fast and dropping leaves. Pasture and hayfields continue to be at a standstill. Farmers were busy taking soil samples and making preparations for small grain and cover crop planting. There is a concern now that dry and hard soils will delay planting those crops.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

A little rain fell this past weekend, but conditions did not improve. Heat, sun and wind are taking their toll on soybeans. Soybeans are giving back each day. Worms are still a problem. Some folks have sprayed 3 times. Small grain plans are on hold now waiting for moisture. Corn harvest continues and is winding down for most. Yields have been about 50-60% of normal in most areas and some worse than that. Sweet potato harvest continues. Quality and size are about normal but have been stressed by lack of rainfall. Harvest of squash, peppers, and tomatoes continued. Pumpkins are coming in. Need rain!

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHWESTERN

CARROLL (Webb Flowers)

Drought conditions are setting in seriously in Carroll County Virginia. Need rain.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cool nights and light showers continue. Grass looks better than most springs.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Dry weather is still causing issues. Pastures are still dormant to likely dead and will need reseeding and renovations. Soybeans have quite a few pods but the beans are very small and the plants are already dropping leaves.

DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)

We are still dry, in many parts of the county they have received less than 2.5 inches of rain since the first week of June. Several cattle producers are cutting soybean to make hay since we have no grass and stock piling grass hay for the winter looks very poor.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Most corn has been harvested with expected low yields. At least most corn was dry and did not have to go through farm dryers. Soybean conditions continue to decline as more plants are dying each week. Seed size will definitely be smaller this year and it appears the stems will continue to be green making early harvest a challenge. Cows are receiving hay as pasture production has dropped to nothing.

SOUTHEASTERN (continued)

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

No rain in the past week. Soybeans are in dire need of rain and none is in the forecast. Cotton harvest is underway and yields are very low some as low as 250 pounds/acre. Pastures are in very poor condition.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Corn harvest is almost complete with dry soils preventing any small grain seeding.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

Dry weather continues and crop conditions are fading fast. Most growers just want to get this season behind them and hope for a better one next year. Corn harvest is wrapping up. Cotton defoliation is underway and harvest of early maturing soybean is getting started. Rainfall is needed for good peanut digging and small grain planting this fall.



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